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Letter dated 6 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on Monday, 19 January 2015, the Security Council plans to hold an open debate at the ministerial level entitled "Inclusive development for the maintenance of international peace and security". The related concept note is attached (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Cristián **Barros**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Inclusive development for the maintenance of international peace and security

Concept note

Introduction

The open debate proposed by Chile is grounded in a holistic view of international security, based on the interlinkages between the three pillars of the United Nations system: peace and security, development and human rights (General Assembly resolution 60/1).

Time and again, modern conflict — particularly intra-State and asymmetric conflicts — have shown that, for any prevention policy to be effective, it must address appropriately the underlying causes of the conflict, which may include socioeconomic, gender-based, ethnic, tribal, religious and ideological tensions that undermine the legitimacy of States and disrupt the governance of their societies. The aim of this open debate is to underline the need to pre-empt internal conflicts before they threaten international peace and security, and to promote proactively stable societies where radicalization, violence and extremism have no place.

In this context, we postulate that national, territorial, social, gender-based, cultural and tribal inclusion and inclusive development are important factors for maintaining and building peace and, as such, should be discussed in the body responsible for guaranteeing international security, in line with Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), in which the Council recognizes that addressing certain threats requires comprehensively addressing underlying factors and promoting, inter alia, social cohesion and inclusiveness.

Exclusion and discrimination are the root causes of many conflicts. Indeed, as a result of racial, ethnic, social, gender-based, religious, cultural or economic exclusion, certain communities or groups are marginalized from their countries' development. That is why, in an atmosphere of systematic discrimination and marginalization, disaffected youth are more easily radicalized and often end up being recruited by non-State actors who engage in violence and/or terrorism.

Exclusion and inequality are particularly dangerous in multicultural, multi-ethnic and multinational States, where certain national or regional components are marginalized and/or where minority rights are not respected institutionally or in practice. This — as evidenced by cases that remain on the Council's agenda — leads to a spiral of radicalization and armed violence.

An inclusive society is one that overcomes differences based on geography, race, gender, class and generation in order to create equal opportunities, regardless of the origin of national, ethnic and cultural groups, and in which political and military power comes under civilian authority. The imperative of an inclusive society can thus be seen as both a precondition for stability, development and democratic governance, and an ethical and political commitment.

Inclusiveness and the Security Council

The Security Council has and already played a role in this area and should continue to do so. Perhaps the most emblematic example is the Council's call for the formation of an inclusive Government in the multinational and multi-faith State of Iraq (press release SC /11519), where social, ethnic and religious exclusion has been a determining factor in the spread of radical extremist groups. The Council has also stressed the importance of an inclusive transition process in Yemen (press release SC/11595) and the need for a comprehensive and inclusive peace agreement to end the crisis in Mali (press release SC/11604).

The Council has addressed inclusion in electoral processes. In the case of the Central African Republic, it has promoted, inter alia, free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections, including the full and effective participation of women at all levels and at an early stage, and the participation of internally displaced persons[1] and refugees (resolution 2149 (2014)). In the case of Burundi, the Council called upon the Government to foster inclusive elections by continuing to improve dialogue between all national actors, including civil society (resolution 2137 (2014)).

The Council has also underlined that sustainable peace and development cannot be achieved without the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, and that women should be included as active participants in all stages of peacebuilding (Statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2011/4). During the open debate on women, peace and security, held on 28 October 2014 (S/PRST/2014/21), States provided examples of the role played by women as agents of peace in their communities.

In Liberia, the national reconciliation and peacebuilding process has been based on the establishment of mechanisms for the inclusion of all sectors — with women playing a special role in the process —[2] in strengthening the rule of law. The Security Council has also made significant efforts to promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers by addressing the root causes of their recruitment, to ensure that they can be reintegrated into their communities and that they are not return to armed conflict (resolution 1612 (2005) and subsequent resolutions).

The peace agreements considered by the Council[3] also count social cohesion and inclusiveness among the factors that preserve the territorial integrity and unity of States. Other resolutions and documents highlight the role of inclusive political agreements in peacebuilding.[4]

In its resolution 2171 (2014), the Security Council recalled that the prevention of conflict remains a primary responsibility of States, that States need to adopt a

[1] Arria-formula meeting hosted by Chile and Australia on the protection of internally displaced persons, held on 30 May 2014.

[2] The initiative "Peace Huts", led by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), for the settlement of conflicts and promotion of women-led community mediation, involving men and children. http://www.unwomen.org/es/news/stories/2012/9/from-conflict-resolution-to-prevention-connecting-peace-huts-to-the-police-in-liberia#sthash.FTXc7Rfr.dpuf.

[3] For example, the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi (2000).

[4] Joint communiqué of the eighth annual joint consultative meeting between members of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (S/2014/400, annex).

comprehensive strategy for conflict prevention and sustainable peace. This should comprise operational and structural measures for the prevention of armed conflict and for addressing its root causes, including through strengthening the rule of law at the international and national levels and promoting sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, gender equality and respect for, and protection of, human rights.

The debate proposed by Chile falls precisely within this framework.

Towards social inclusion strategies

Consistent with the comprehensive strategy for conflict prevention and sustainable peace mentioned in resolution 2171 (2014), we advocate comprehensive strategies for social inclusion that draw on the best practices available.

These best practices are inspired by various multilateral institutions. The Social Charter of the Americas of the Organization of American States (2012) has made a significant contribution to the promotion of inclusive development in the inter-American system by stating that "development with equity strengthens and consolidates democracy, since the two are interdependent and mutually reinforcing". The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has conducted significant studies on improving social inclusion at the local level. The States or international organizations concerned should cooperate with other States requiring assistance in the development of such strategies and indicators. While there is no single model to follow, given different levels of development, the European Union's Lisbon Strategy for economic, social and environmental renewal (2000) represents a relevant approach in this area.

The Dili Declaration (2010) proposed a new vision for State-building and peacebuilding in fragile States, identifying priorities for reducing poverty, deterring conflict and providing better conditions for their people. The Declaration recognizes that there can be no development without security; points out that States have a responsibility to resolve their internal conflicts and to address the needs of their people; and identifies conflict resolution and prevention, reconciliation, social inclusion, peacebuilding, dialogue and the rule of law as priority areas of action.

Inclusive development and armed conflict

Armed conflict seriously affects — and is perhaps the greatest obstacle to — development, and destroys the political, social, economic and cultural fabric of societies. By contrast, inclusive political and economic institutions create a virtuous circle of governance and resilience that leads to stronger States. In a broader sense, inclusive societies provide equal opportunities for all, which, in turn, strengthens peaceful coexistence and governance.

A perfect illustration of how exclusion on the grounds of ethnicity leads to conflict is the case of Rwanda. Twenty years later, the country has put itself back on the path to stability and development thanks to inclusive public policies, which the international community at large must continue to support. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, the Council emphasized the particular importance of all forms of education in order to prevent the commission of future genocides.

Bloody clashes between religious groups have exacerbated the humanitarian crises and the climate of violence in Central Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, forcing the Council to seek answers. The Arria-formula meeting on intercommunal dialogue and crime prevention in the Central African Republic, held on 14 March 2014, highlighted the importance of the work of religious leaders at the community and local level in addressing the situation of Muslim minorities being forced to seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

Inclusive development is also relevant in the case of Haiti, where the peacekeeping operation has managed to put an end to armed confrontation, although the continued support of the Security Council in social, political and economic development, inter alia, is required in order to build a politically stable and secure country which offers growth opportunities to its people.

As a corollary, and as the experiences from peace operations and missions authorized by the Council show, the maintenance of comprehensive and lasting international peace and security involves the promotion of inclusive societies, which fosters a process of peace, security and development. Promoting inclusiveness should be encouraged and supported by the entire United Nations system.

Objectives of the open debate

- To note the importance of territorial, national, ethnic, social, gender-based, economic and cultural inclusion for the political stability, democratic governance, development and territorial integrity of States, which are the factors and virtues of effective conflict prevention.
- To help detect sources of exclusion and risk by identifying populations exposed to exclusion with a view to developing — within and outside the United Nations system — early warning mechanisms to address serious cases of exclusion and put in place remedial and mitigation measures.
- To strengthen the role of the United Nations system in supporting inclusive development strategies, including in the Peacebuilding Commission and in appropriate regional agencies (Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations).
- To identify the particular challenges, in terms of inclusion, facing States that are emerging from conflict or that are engaged in peacebuilding efforts.
- To identify and disseminate best practices and models of inclusive development at the local, national, regional and international levels.
- To discuss how the working methods of the Security Council can be used to help ensure that the Council is informed of serious situations of exclusion which have, or may have, the potential to affect international peace and security.

Expected outcome

The intention of the Presidency would be to adopt a presidential statement based on the idea that inclusive development contributes effectively to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The presidential statement would help to consolidate the principle of the interlinkages between the three pillars of the United Nations and to strengthen coordinated and systemic actions by the Organization as a whole. This would contribute to more effective implementation of the Council's conflict prevention and peacebuilding measures.

Format

As in previous years, the meeting will be held in an open debate format to allow Member States to share their views on matters pertaining to the item under consideration. The open debate will take place on 19 January 2015.

Briefings

The Secretary-General will deliver opening remarks. Statements may be delivered by the following keynote speakers:

- The Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.
- The Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil).
- 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate, President of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, Ms. Leymah Gbowee.